long walking-sticks, they squatted in a circle around us and began to ply us with such an infinity of questions of nonsensical import that we were taxed to our best endeavors in answering. They spent the spare time during this inquisitorial operation in daubing small rings of vermilion around their eyes. The effect of this singular ornamentation was to heighten further their sinister and cruel appearance, and when the tout ensemble was completed by covering the remainder of the face with soot and grease one could not but imagine that even the least self-respecting devils would not feel greatly flattered by acquaintanceship with these villainous-looking earthly compatriots.

A THREATENING CROWD.

Nor did their exterior belie their real nature. Discovering that we were not deeply impressed by this threating outward appearance they grew insolent, and finally aggressive; in boastful tones demanding that we should make payment for the privilege of halting in their village, at the same time advancing covert threats at punishment should we fail to comply. It had been our previous intention to make such presents, but irritated by the insolence of their behavior and their seeming desire to provoke hostility, we resolved for the sake of example, not to be intimidated by their loud sounding and grandiloquent boasts, and with tones matching theirs in vigor, announced our determination not to be coerced. With a suggestive leer one of their number pointed to a group of scowling natives behind; imitating his example, in turn, I glanced in the direction of the well-armed and alert Kiangsis. The effect of this movement was not lost, for the comparison must have been dissatisfying. As we fancied their aggressiveness was only as strong as they flattered themselves would be our fear of their threats, for, after a hurried whispering consultation, in milder tones, they anonunced their earnest desire to form with us a pact of good will and placed several of the larger dwellings at our disposal. We, in turn, not to be outdone in generosity, gave to each a present to cement the bonds of good-fellowship and the entente cordiale was resumed.

For the time being, however, it seemed as if we had escaped the fryingpan but to leap into the fire. The natives themselves, seeing the results that had attended the efforts of their priests, and, ascribing the success of the latter to our fears of their menacing attitude—gathered around in surly groups, uttering covert threats and assuming a generally hostile appearance of which there could be no mistaking the tenor. As we continued to ignore these demands the shouts rose louder, and finally several of the more turbulent spirits, taking the precaution to retire to a distance, began throwing stones toward us. There could be no overlooking of this undeserved aggressiveness, and without giving them time to attempt further resistance Burton with half a dozen of the Kiangsis, charged down on the bellicose group, and, by laying about them vigorously with the pack-staves, gave them to understand that we were fully able and determined to take care of ourselves. The effect of this drastic treatment was not lost, immediately there was a wild scampering in all directions, and when later in the evening, they returned, though there could be no mistaking the insincerity in their suave and smiling faces, the effects of this show of spirit on our part had not vanished, and we were spared further annoyance.

SUBSTANTIAL HOUSES.

We remained in camp at Kirkan Boulak until the morning of the 10th, owing to the recurrence of bad weather and the lameness of several of the Kiangsis, who, from the arduous journeying of the preceding days, were fairly used up and totally incapable of taking the road. We profited by this abstinence from labor to make observations in the village and the country immediately surrounding. Although our initial reception was not conducive to charitable feelings, it was a pleasant surprise to find the people somewhat more agreeable than our preconceptions of them had allowed. The village itself contained nearly fifty dwellings, fashioned after the usual Thibetan style of loose stones piled on top of each other and held together by a cement of sunbaked mud. Several of the more important were two stories in height, from fifty to seventy feet long, and about half as wide, the lower floor serving as the abode of the animals and as a storehouse for food, and the upper stories for human habitations. There were no windows of any kind, sufficient light and air being let in by small entrances two or three feet high, cut in the wall at intervals of ten or twelve feet, and reached from the ground by notched poles, or rope ladders spun from the long flank hair of the yak. The smaller dwellings were the abodes of single families, but the larger ones seemed to be a sort of co-operative arrangement, several families assisting in their construction and living in as friendly neighborliness and unison as residents of similar apartment structures in more favored lands.

How the native population are able to escape serious illness is quite beyond human understanding, for the interiors of these abodes are little better than pesthouses. Both light and fresh air are excluded, as the narrow doorway invariably is covered with a flap of yakskin, rendering seeing and breathing inside of one of these hovels a hardship not to be undergone uncomplainingly. The family occupies one large center room, with an ovenlike fireplace sunk in the middle of the floor, used indiscriminately as a resting place for dogs—who seem to form an important element out of all ratio to the human population—as bed places for the occupants, and as a general receptacle for all the filth and excrement of the apartment. The extreme poverty of the country is reflected in the scanty possessions of the inhabitants, who, aside from having permanent dwellings, are not much richer in this world's goods than the miserable wandering nomads of the plain. The sterile nature of the soil renders successful agricultural pursuit impossible, obliging recourse to grazing and trading to keep alive the thin spark of existence. Although I visited many of these dwellings, I failed to see a single farming implement, and even the simplest utensils of domestic economy were limited to a few earthen pots and small bowls made of iron or hollowed out of stone.

PRIMITIVE CHAFING DISH.

In one of these dwellings I noticed a peculiar form of bowl, which, as it is in quite common use in this region, may be here described. A large oblong block of stone is first hollowed out, leaving a thin ridge in the center, thereby dividing it into two parts. A yak-skin is stripped of the outside hair, carefully beaten with small stones, and exposed to sun and air until it is perfectly dried. The interior of the bowl is lined with this crude leather covering, it being held in position by a composition of glue and cement. The outside of the skin, being covered with an adhesive substance, soon hardens to almost adamant firmness and is carefully scraped and polished until a surface of glassy smoothness has been formed. This curious kitchen utensil is the one generally utilized in the preparation of all liquid food, the method of procedure being as follows: The water or other mixture is first placed in one of the receptacles, while a number of loose round stones are imbedded in the fire, and, as soon as they are heated, dropped into the compartment. This is continued until the cooking process has been completed. Although the operation is a laborious one, it offers the practical advantages of allowing the preparation of several delicacies at one time, and likewise prevents the discommoding of the master of the establishment, or the legion of dogs, should they have preempted the fireplace.

Though less warlike than the savage nomads, the natives of Kurkan Boulak were much better armed. Many had spears of excellent workmanship, and long bladed knives of which they seemed to be enormously proud. We subsequently learned, however, that these were not of their own manufacture, but were purchased from the traders during their periodical summer visits. A few of the more important men had the long rifled matchlocks, with forked rest, in general use throughout Thibet and central Asia; these doubtless were held more as prized possessions, and as conferring a sort of distinction on their respective owners, since ammunition is very scarce, and owing to an unmistakable flimsiness of construction the operation of firing one of these instruments might recoil with disastrous effect on the head of the unfortunate individual so rash as to attempt it.

As regards the natives of Kurkan Boulak, and in general the whole of the country south of the Charing-Nor, it is almost impossible to define their ethnological distinctions with any degree of certainty. Of all the mixed communities of the much-mixed east this country offers a more varied object lesson in interracial complications than any other locality of its size in the world. The predominating races of the settled villages seem to be Mongols pure and simple, with a mixture of typical Thibetans, while the nomads are either Tanguts or Tourgouths, although from intermarriage and subsequent complete isolation from each other the varying distinctions in their physical traits and their different modes of living have evolved numberless small tribes, forming in the wide divergence of their customs so many separate races. The Mongols and Thibetans in general are rather short, although many of the women are quite tall (on several occasions I have seen several of the latter nearly six feet in height), well formed, though given to fleshiness, and capable of enduring the most rigorous hardship. Their faces, even without the adornment of various colored pigments, in which practice they seem to delight, are flat and expressionless, and in general repulsively ugly. In a typical specimen the skin is a light brown, the face broad and flattened, cheek bones high and prominent, the nose compressed until nearly all trace of the organ is lost, and the eyes small and slanting. Among the men the head is entirely shaved, excepting a small tuft hanging on the back of the crown, by which the titular dignity of its possessor is denoted, the longer the tail hair the more eminent the distinction of the wearer. Among the women, however, the hair is allowed to grow to its natural length, and is either gathered in long braids down the back or spread on a framework of tranverse sticks extending at right angles to the side of the head.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

While in the scale of civilization the nomads and tent-dwelling Tanguts and Tourgouths of this district are on a much lower plane of advancement than the natives of the settled villages, physically they are a much superior race. Both men and women are fairly good looking, judging by the Asiatic standard, and many faces of extreme regularity of feature are seen. Even fair hair and blue eyes are met occasionally, while their constant outdoor life and the never-ending hardships to which they are subjected, have given them a certain freedom of carriage and robustness of frame totally wanting among the settled Mongols. There is no divergence of dress between the villagers and nomads, both sexes wearing the long padded yakshin robes and sheepskin coats in general use throughout central Asia.

As is but natural to suppose, where physical characteristics differ so widely, there is similar divergence in their religious beliefs. Among the Mongols and Thibetans a sort of hybrid Buddhism is in vogue, which extends to some of the Tangut and Tourgouth nomad tribes, but among these latter Mohammedanism claims the greatest number of adherents. Neither of these sects is pure; the precepts of their various codes shows a striving after something more substantial than mere dogma and theory, consequently numberless minor gods and superstitious conditions have been introduced into their beliefs, in no wise dissimilar from African fetich worship.

The various strange customs and ceremonial rites of these tribes are very complex. Owing to their infinite number, it would be impossible to go into detail as they were practiced among the different tribes, but I gathered the following from observation and from questioning some of the more important head men. These customs which I describe are those in common use among the Mongols of the settled villages.

When a young man becomes attached to a girl, and wishes to marry her, he seeks her in secret, and obtains her consent. That point secured, he commissions a lama, who makes a business of such affairs of the heart, to treat with the girl's parents regarding the presents which it will be necessary to give in order to obtain their consent. This being arranged, the lama who has undertaken the negotiation informs the lover, at the same time demanding a generous bribe for his services. If the conditions are favorable the suitor announces his acquiescence and the lama returns to the girl's parents with a sheep or other present sent by the young man. From this moment the lover is not to see the father and mother of his future bride; he takes the greatest care to avoid them, and if, by chance, they perceive him, they cover their faces, as if all the ties of friendship were broken. This indifference, however, is only feigned, for they feel the same affection as before, and, in conversation, extol one another's merits. At the end of a month the marriage is solemnized by the giving of a feast by the parents of the bride to the husband and his friends, the principal feature of which is a sort of rival chorus of laudation, the friends of the groom extolling his worth and merits in extravagant terms, while a similar good office is performed for the bride by her parents and numerous relations. When the marriage is celebrated, the husband may take away his wife forthwith, if he has a horse, or yak, or camel; in that case the father of the bride supplies his daughter with clothing, sheepskins and several bowls and cooking utensils. If the husband has no animals, he he leaves his wife with her parents until he can procure one, for it would be a terrible disgrace if the woman was brought to her future home on foot, although this contingency rarely occurs, as in most cases it is an absolute necessity that the suitor should have these possessions before the parent's consent can be obtained. Marriage here, it would seem, is not a luxury for the poor man. Although Prejevalsky and others have asserted that both polygamy and polyandry are practiced in this region I failed to observe the existence of either. Judging by savage standards, domestic morals are exemplary. The lot of women is a hard one, seeing that a great part of the manual labor of the community falls on their shoulders, but, on the whole, they are well treated, and seem to have more influence in the community than is usual in central Asia.

Divorces or infractions of the marital code are of rare occurrence. When a husband and wife cannot agree, or are desirous of separation, one of them quarrels with the other on a previously arranged pretext, the wife strikes the husband with her open hand on the face before witnesses and they part without further ceremony. If there are children the boys go with the father and the girls remain with the mother, unless the latter remarries; then the girls also are returned to the male parent.

The various customs attending birth and death are much simpler. When a child is born its body is rubbed all over with fat or fresh butter, which is also given to its mother to take; her face is likewise rubbed with it, and she eats nothing but meat until her complete recovery. In this function no distinction is made between the sexes; in contrast with the races of southern and eastern Thibet, in this region children of the female sex are shown as much consideration as the males, except in matters of inheritance. When a man dies his wife receives one-fourth of his goods; the mother of the deceased has a tenth of the other three-fourths, and the father a fourth of the remainder; the children's share, which is thus reduced to one-half, is so divided that each boy shall have twice as much as each girl. At the death of both husband and wife without offspring the property goes back to the ascending line, for collateral branches never inherit.

Neither among the Mongols nor nomads are there observed any lengthy or intricate ceremonial rites on occasions of death or burial. In the case of a man the body is allowed to remain in his former dwelling for a space of two or three days, during which the lamas recite prayers and drive away the evil spirits supposed to beset it. The hair is then cut off, placed in a small bag, and along with other possessions of the deceased buried with the body or worn around the neck of his widow. Presents are made to the lamas to discover a suitable place for burial, and the body is interred without further formality of any kind. If the dead man has been an important member of the community an obo of loose stones with prayer flags is erected over the grave, and at the end of each month, for a year following burial, the widow must visit the spot and deposit food or other presents, or else hire the services of the lamas to perform this service.

If the deceased should be a female, or a young child of either sex, there is no ceremony whatsoever. The parent merely takes the body and buries it at the first convenient place presenting itself, or else sews it up in a yak-skin and drops it into the current of some swiftly-rushing stream. The Mongols (those following the precepts of the Buddhist faith) evidently do not believe in the further earthly existence of the spirits of the dead—at least I have failed to notice anything that would justify this belief. On the other hand, the quasi-Mohammedan Tanguts and Tourgouths readily accept the theory that the spirits of deceased members of their tribes either enter the bodies of living members or else take possession of the bodies of animals, and in a measure impart their characteristics to the beast or human being whose body is occupied. Thus, if in case of a yak hunt the attacked animal should show signs of unusual wariness or subtlety, its pursuit is immediately abandoned, from the belief that its spiritually-acquired traits will render further attack extremely dangerous for the hunters. Likewise, at certain seasons of the year, when spirit forms are supposed to be unusually active, no hunting is indulged in, even though the natives should be forced to undergo a lengthy period of starvation in consequence.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

What is the tariff on wool?—W. W.

From 4 cents to 12 cents a pound, according to grade.

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Where is the key to the bastile?—J. W. L.

It is an exhibit at Mount Vernon in the old Washington mansion.

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When is the St. Louis fair to begin?—Q. X.

In the spring of 1903, according to present plans.

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What is the average yield of cotton in the United States?—N. R. C.

The average crop for the last ten years has been 8,956,373 bales.

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How and when did King George III of England come to his death?—A. J. B.

At windsor, Jan. 29, 1820; for ten years he had been insane and blind.

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What was the doctrine of the mean?—

A very old philosophical treatise generally attributed to Tsze Sze, a grandson of the Chinese philosopher Confucius.

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What are the areas and the population of Illinois and Texas?—Curiosity.

Illinois, area, 58,354 square miles; population, 4,821,550; Texas, area, 266,011; population, 3,048,710.

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What is the weight of the silver dollar now in use, and how much silver does it contain?—E. W.

The weight is 412½ grains, nine-tenths of which is pure silver.

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John M. Clayton, secretary of state during Taylor's administration, and United States representative in the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, was a native of what State? Was the Bulwer the Bulwer-Lytton of literature?—F. E. S.

Delaware. 2. No.

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Will you name the author of the oft-quoted line, "Every cloud has a silver lining?"—R. R. H.

This saying is traced by Brewer to "Did a sable cloud turn forth her silver lining?" which is from Milton's "Comus."

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Who discovered that sugar could be made from maple sap, and when and where—U. M. M.

Some North American Indian. In the early days of our colonies some of the savages made a festivity of sugar gathering.

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What has become of Mr. Clark, who wrote under the name of Max Adeler? 2. Is William Henry Bishop, the author, living?—H. S. H.

This is Charles Heber Clark, who is living in Philadelphia, we think. 2. Yes; in New Haven, Conn.

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Q. C., California—The Express, Terre Haute; the News, Fort Wayne; the Review, Elkhart; the Commercial, Vincennes, and the Martin County Tribune, Loogootee, are leading papers in the places named. We cannot give the names of book dealers in this column, but you can get them by writing to the paper in each town.

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What is the origin and meaning of the word kismet? 2. Also the origin of the word oleomargerine?

It comes from a Turkish word, "qismet," and means fate, or appointed lot. 2. It is compounded of oleo, from the Latin oleum, oil, and margerin, the name given to the solid fatty matter of vegetable oils and to a pearllike substance extracted from lard.

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Please give the present dog law.—G. A. S.

For a male dog a tax of $1 must be paid, for a female dog $2; for each additional male dog $2, and for each additional female dog $5, this tax going to the township trustee. In addition, a license fee may be exacted in incorporated towns for each dog owned by persons living within the corporate limits.

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Will you give a formula, if there is any, for removing printing ink from paper?—J. E. H.

Here is the formula, but it won't work every time, nor will anything else: Put thick blotting paper beneath the soiled sheet, apply sulphuric ether with cotton wool, rubbing gently, and finally apply fresh blotting paper to absorb the color. Many repetitions of these processes will be necessary.

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With what countries has Greece been at war? 2. Which is of the most recent date, and who was ruler at the time? 3. Had he a son? If so, what was nis name?—T. A.

In modern times Turkey has been her chief opponent, the last war occurring in 1897. George I then was King of Greece. His sons were five, Prince Constantine the eldest.

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Will you tell me something about the novelist, Anthony Hope?—A. S.

He is Anthony Hope Hawkins, second son of a London clergyman, was born Feb. 9, 1863, and is unmarried. He was educated at Marlborough and at Baliol College, Oxford, and became a barrister of the Middle Temple in 1887, practicing until 1894, when he gave up law for literary work. Beginning in 1890, his publications have been numerous.

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What are the ingredients of bronze? 2. Is the metal malleable?—M. M. R.

Copper and tin usually, and aluminium or manganese replaces the tin for some sorts. The proportion of copper ranges from two-thirds to eleven-fifths, according to the sort of bronze. 2. It is malleable, though not to such a degree as is copper, and, curiously, to be made malleable must be heated redhot and quenched in water, a process that makes steel brittle.

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What prevents an oblong projectile from turning end over end after leaving the cannon? 2. And what is the advantage of oblong shot over rounds ones?—Phil.

The rotary motion imparted to it by the cannon's rifling. Before smooth-bore guns became obsolete many experiments were made with wind vanes attached to the shot. These were to set the shot rotating, but were not effective, and the oblong shot were reserved exclusively for rifled guns. 2 Greater range for the same velocities at the muzzle, greater penetration for the same striking velocity, greater capacity and better accuracy.

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Will you approximate the English loss of life in the Boer war? I have seen it put at 14,000 to 15,000, which is either a typographical error or a falsification of the British headquarters.—Boer Sympathizer.

The figures up to the end of March were 14,972, not including losses in the colonial troops. The number of these in service was 11,000, and probably 750 should be added for their losses. The March deaths, 583, give a basis for estimating the losses since, which would foot up to the total about 16,500. If this is not so large as your sympathy, you should remember that it represents nearly one death for every two Boers engaged, and is nearly three times our losses in the Spanish war.

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What is the milky way, and at what distance is it?—L. E. K.

That it is a circle of nebulous, cloud-like light spanning the heavens, you doubtless know. That it is composed of stars too small to be visible singly to the naked eye is conceded. But its true constitution is one of the many unsolved problems of astronomy. Herschel had a celebrated theory of its structure, but later astronomers have voted it untenable. Newcomb wrote of it: "Probably it is a vast irregular ring of star-clusters, near the center of which the sun it situated. But no certain data exist for fixing the position of this ring among the other stars, and means of measuring the distance of the stars are too imperfect to enable such data to be collected."

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What per cent. is the limit to the assessments that may be made against lot holders in cemeteries? What are the liabilities of lot holders?—B. L.

The total amount of assessments in any one year shall not exceed 20 per cent. of the lot or lots assessed—this applying to a cemetery which has been incorporated at request of lot owners and placed under management of a board of directors which is empowered to make assessments for the improvements and care of the grounds. In such case each person owning a lot shall be entitled to cast one vote for each lot owned by him at all elections for directors. In cemeteries managed like Crown Hill, Indianapolis, there are no assessments, the cost of improvements and care coming from the fund derived from sale of lots.

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By what forces were the British opposed in the battle of Ludy's Lane in the war of 1812? Did Americans take any part in that fight? If so, by whom were they commanded? The Americans crossed the river at a point near Lewiston and fought the battle of Queenston in Canada, and I read that the Americans buried in the old cemetery on the site of the Lunuy's lane battlefield are to be disinterred and buried on American soil with military honors sometime in June next. I was not aware that Americans took part in this conflict.—J. A.

The Ludy's lane fight resulted from another invasion of Canada than that starting from the crossing near Lewiston. In the former were engaged some 2,600 Americans, a considerable army for that time, and Major General Jacob Brown, afterward commander-in-chief of our armies, was in command. Winfield Scott and Eleazer W. Ripley were his brigadier generals. The American loss was 852.

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When was the first Baptist Church organized? 2. Is St. Patrick's day the anniversary of his birth? Will you sketch his life?—R. V. O.

This is a moot point. Baptists claim that the apostolic church was essentially Baptist; non-Baptist Church historians maintain generally that no organized body holding Baptist principles can be identified prior to 1520. 2. No; the date of his birth is uncertain, but was about 372. From 388 to 395 he was a captive and slave to King Dalaradia in Ireland, then he went to Gaul and was made priest and bishop, returning to Ireland as a missionary in 432. He evangelized most of the petty tribes that then held the country, dealing gently with their old pagan beliefs and winning over first the chiefs and through them the clansmen. Much that is told of him is purely fabulous, but his writings reveal him as a judicious and industrious missionary, and a simple-minded, devout and unlettered man. He died at Saul, County Down, March 17, 465.

Words Incorrectly Used.

Writer in Newspaperdom.

The point on which I wish to speak is not so much the "stilted" as the incorrect use of several common everyday words. The first is "occur," which never means "to take place," in the sense that the affair has been arranged for. For instance, marriages never properly "occur," except in police court; they always "take place," as they are always arranged for beforehand. Funerals never "occur," but always "take place," for the same reason. Also accidents never "take place," and likewise deaths, excepting murders; they always "occur." The very origin of the word occur precludes any possibility of a concerted action.

I am aware that new reporters often are told by city editors to vary their language as much as possible, and are thus led into error, thinking the two terms are interchangeable.

I have no patience with a man who deliberately commits an error for the purpose of lending variety to his story, as the English language is elastic enough for anyone to repeat his statements, and yet not use the same term twice.

In these days, when our public schools are paying attention to the study of everything excepting the study of the English language I hold that it is the duty of every writer to use the best possible English compatible with the speed with which he has to work. Newspapers are the only real literature read by the great bulk of the people, and especially by those to whom a correct education in English is not possible. They are thus the greatest educational factors in our everyday life.

PARALYSIS IN CHILDREN.

An Ailment from Which the Little Ones Never Fully Recover.

It sometimes, though fortunately not often, happens that a child of from six months to four years of age suddenly becomes paralyzed in one or more limbs without any apparent cause. The natural conclusion of the friends and parents is that the nurse has let the child fall and thus injured its head or spine, and many a trained nurse has had her reputation ruined by such unjust censure. Physicians attribute this sudden paralysis to an inflammation of the anterior horns of the spinal cord, calling it technically polio myelitis anterior acuta, but they are in the dark as to the cause of the inflammation. In some cases it seems to be due to difficult teething; in other cases it follows an attack of scarlet fever, measles and the like; sometimes, but rarely, it may be due to an injury. But in all cases there seems to be a history of sudden chilling, such as might be due to exposure to a current of cold air or lying on damp ground. Whatever the cause, it occurs most frequently in the summer months or in the autumn, but it is no respecter of sex—boys and girls are alike attacked—nor is there any proof of hereditary transmission.

Sometimes it is preceded by fever, and perhaps delirium, but the fever is of short duration, perhaps only a few hours, and usually not more than one or two days at most. Sometimes the child is put to bed at night in comparative and apparent good health, but taken up in the morning paralyzed in one or more limbs, or perhaps the paralysis is not noticed if the child is very young, until some one remarks that it does not kick as usual or use the hands freely. A striking thing, too, about it is that the paralysis is at its greatest extent at the very outset; it occurs as quickly as the lightning flash. Usually, too, it occurs in the legs, and if other members are involved it creeps upward, attacking the arms and sometimes, but not often, the neck and chest. Usually it affects both legs and both arms together, but sometimes only one, and sometimes only an arm and a leg on one side.

Another peculiar phase of the disease is that it affects groups of muscles which have the same action or act in concert, while other muscles having an opposing action may be left intact, this peculiarity having a marked influence in causing the deformities which occur as a result of this disease. This is explained by the fact that the cells of the spinal cord overlap each other, but not regularly, and when a portion of the cord is inflamed some of the cells controlling the action of certain muscles are rendered entirely powerless, while others are only partially affected and momentarily weakened.

As the disease progresses action is restored to some of the paralyzed muscles, in part, if not wholly, and the little patient improves more or less rapidly, leading the parents to believe, falsely, that the child will soon receover. This phase gives the disease another of its names, that of regressive or receding paralysis, but while it goes from bad to better, it seldom reaches the best again.

The permanently paralyzed muscles soon become flaccid, the so-called reaction of degeneration sets in, the muscles waste away and are subject to a continuous twitching, normal movement or use of the muscles being impossible. The bones involved in the disease become friable and thin, while the joints are loose and may even become like the joint of a flail, the limb hanging useless and flopping about as if tied to the body with a string. In extreme cases the legs become utterly useless so that the poor child must creep about, dragging them after him like the legs of a doll, and if he chance to reach maturity the limbs still remain infantile in size and form.

The atrophy of the muscles leads to deformity, most commonly club foot and permanent bending of the limb at the knee, with shortening of the limb. This is due to two reasons, the relaxation of the muscular force on the one hand and the consequent increased pull on the other, the muscles which keep the limb extended usually being the ones paralyzed while the flexors still act, bending the limb at the joints, these in turn becoming shortened by a sort of compensatory atrophy. The action may be compared to a set of guy ropes, one of which is lengthened and the opposing set shortened. The extensor muscles in the foot, for example, being paralyzed, the flexors are not antagonized by them, and still being at their normal tension they pull up the heel so that the toes point to the ground and the patient walks on tiptoe, but at the same time the muscles of the lower leg and perhaps those of the upper leg have become shortened and the whole foot is lifted from the ground. Comparing this to a horse, who walks on the tips of his fingers and toes, his hoofs corresponding to nails, physicians call this pes equinus, or horse's foot, and sometimes cut the tendons in the heel that the toes may resume their normal position, but if the disease still progresses this does not better the condition, since the leg will be shorter than the normal limb, for, in its regression, while the general condition may be greatly improved and most of the muscles may regain their normal power and action, it almost invariably happens that one limb, or at least a group of muscles in one limb, will remain permanently paralyzed and progressively waste away from inaction.

The treatment is one which is not within the province or ability of domestic medicine. When it is ushered in by fever even the skilled physician cannot diagnose its occurrence by the premonitory symptoms of fever. This infantile paralysis cannot be recognized as such until paralysis has actually occurred, and then the acute onset and immediate loss of mobility in the muscles brand it beyond doubt of identity. There is little if any disturbance of sensation, and usually no pain, even in the beginning, but the affected limbs are colder to the touch than normal.

In the earlier stages, when fever is present, the physician will doubtless give ergot, or perhaps belladonna, as recommended by Brown-Sequard; in the later stages he may give strychnine carefully, but not if the child is under six months of age, combined with other nervous and blood tonics and remedies to allay septic and inflammatory processes in the cord and elsewhere.

Later much may be done by the parents in the way of massage of the affected muscles or by hot baths, perhaps with a little salt in them, to stimulate the circulation of blood in the wasting muscles. They can urge the child to exercise the muscles gently, but not violently, or if this is impossible they can keep up passive motion by gently working the limbs back and forth, thus imitating natural action and encouraging, so to speak, the muscles to keep up their strength and mobility. Fresh air, too, is a good and cheap remedy, the child being wheeled about out of doors whenever it is warm and dry, and sleeping in a well-ventilated bedroom, but, above all, avoid exposure to cold and damp, for, as these are potent factors in the causation, so they are adverse to recovery.

The outlook for a child thus afflicted is dubious. A certain amount of improvement always occurs, but complete recovery is exceptional and some deformity is almost inevitable. An acute attack seldom if ever recurs, but at the onset one limb may be paralyzed and shortly after the other follows suit, the regression in such a case occurring in the same way, first in one limb and then possibly in the other. Death seldom occurs from an acute attack unless from severe fever, but death sooner or later ensues from exhaustion, or from pneumonia or bronchitis, there being an especial disposition to lung disease in inflammation of the spinal cord, doubtless owing to a greater or less, perhaps imperceptible, paralysis of the chest muscles and the diaphragm which control and regulate breathing. In the most serious cases the child will drag out a miserable existence, perhaps confined to a couch by day and bed by night, or, if not entirely helpless, will grow up half a child in form and power, the pity of all sympathizers with the crippled, but beyond the power of aid to better the bodily inabilities. Fortunately, however, infantile paralysis seldom if ever affects the mind injuriously, and some of the brightest intellects have been developed in such helpless bodies, possibly because the mind was developed more highly because the body was denied the full exercise of its physical functions.

Another name for the disease, essential paralysis of children, shows that it is essentially a disease of children, but rarely occurs in adults. In children the inflammation of the cord occurs as a rule in the back and neck, seldom affecting the face, involving only the nerve controlling the legs and arms, or both. In adults it may attack the cerebral region, and headache at the onset is one of the symptoms in the rare cases in which this paralysis occurs in adults. It is usually marked by pain in the back and extremities and slight fever. Sometimes there is sensitiveness and aching of the muscles, but this is probably due to an associated or pre-existent rheumatism. The paralysis develops rapidly within a few hours, and after a few days begins its regression, complete restoration of motility of the muscles sometimes taking place in nine months or a year at most. This restoration is, however, usually only partial, and muscles remaining permanently paralyzed waste away as in children, but not to such a degree, because the muscles and bones have attained their mature growth. Contractions and deformities may occur, but never of any great degree, for the same reason as above. The treatment is the same as in children, codliver oil being a good restorative tonic to give strength and nutritive elements to the muscles and nerves. Another very important factor is the use of warm, fleecy woolens wrapped around the affected limbs, because the circulation is poor in the wasted muscles and they are more readily affected by changes in temperature, and through their susceptibility to cold a fatal lung or throat trouble may be contracted. One of the causes in adults, as in children, is exposure to cold and damp, and for that reason those who wish to avoid polio myelitis anterior acuta should not lie down on the damp grass, for this method of cooling off, pleasant as it is at the time, is often far from pleasant in its results.

L. N., M. D.

NELSON'S WIDOW.

Notes on a Gentle and Much-Wronged Lady.

National Review.

Always most liberal in money matters, Lord Nelson behaved well to his wife in that respect, for he at once settled on her and regularly paid to her the sum of £1,500 a year, nearly one-half of his income. And she resigned herself to her fate, leading a life of dignified retirement, and continuing to be on friendly terms with her husband's brothers, the Rev. William, afterward Earl Nelson, and Maurice. The death of the latter, soon after the separation, was a great loss to her. His sisters, however, seem to have fallen completely under the spell of Lady Hamilton, and at once broke off all intercourse with "the viscountess," as they called her.

Her health, never robust, led her to seek strength at various watering places. While staying at Brighton, a few months before her death, King William IV arrived there. The next day he hastened out, unattended, to pay his respects to his old commander's widow—the lady at whose wedding he had taken a very leading part more than forty years before. She made her home at Exmouth, living for many years in a charming house there, still standing much as she left it.

After Lord Nelson's death she received from the government a pension of £2,000 a year, but, strangely enough, although his brother and successor was advanced to the dignity of an earl, his widow did not receive a similar recognition, but continued to be Viscountess Nelson only. In her letters she signed herself "Frances H. Nelson and Bronte," and she was occasionally mentioned in the newspapers of the day as Duchess of Bronte (the Sicilian title conferred upon Lord Nelson by King Ferdinand of Naples.)

Josiah Nisbet (Lady Nelson's son by her first husband) did not get on altogether well in the royal navy. He had been promoted far too young to the rank of post-captain, and soon after the estrangement between Lord Nelson and his mother, and the consequent loss of the admiral's all-powerful interest, he seems to have left the navy and to have lived entirely with her. In 1819 he married a young woman who was Lady Nelson's goddaughter and companion.

Captain and Mrs. Nisbet were in the habit of making long cruises in his yacht, often leaving their children, of whom they had altogether seven, in the care of Lady Nelson. In July, 1830, the Nisbet family were in Paris, and Captain Nisbet was taken ill with fever and died there, three of his young children dying about the same time. His mother hastened over to his deathbed, and was, therefore, in the midst of the terrible scenes of the "Trois Jours de Juillet." It was known that they were friendly with the Duchesse De Berri, and the house where they were staying was searched with great vigor, despite the fact that Captain Nisbet lay dead in it. The nurse of his little daughters was shot dead at their side. Lady Nelson took them and their mother back to Exmouth with her, and shortly afterward had the bodies of her son and his children exhumed, brought across the channel and reinterred at Littleham. And there, a few months later, she also was laid, dying—broken-hearted, it is said—in London.

Lady Nelson's three remaining granddaughters, of whom two still survive, married and had large families, by whom her memory is affectionately cherished, and the few personal relics which belonged to her are treasured with the utmost veneration. She is remembered as being the most sweet tempered and gentle, and was of a cultivated and artistic nature, the friend of literary men and of artists, particularly of Sir William Beechey. Besides the fine portrait of Lord Nelson now in possession of the Duke of Wellington, Sir William painted Lady Nelson within a year of her death—the face showing pathetic traces of her saddened life. There is also the now well-known miniature of her in middle age, besides a very pretty drawing of her as a young woman.

The Strong-Minded Philanthrophist.

New York Evening Sun.

A young man in evening clothes was proceeding unsteadily along a street off Central Park West the other evening just before dark. Toward him came a woman well known in women's club circles. Instead of running away at the sight of the convivial stranger she walked right on. Suddenly he lurched toward her and said thickly, "How're you, my dear?"

"Look here," said the woman, "you are in no condition to be out alone. What is your name and where do you live? I intend to see that you take that cab," pointing to one in the distance, "and go home at once."

That half sobered him. The cabby, seeing the condition, drove up. The man, after some difficulty, produced his card case and found out his own address. The woman walked on, while he leaned out of the half doors and waved his hat with respectful gratitude.

Who Really Was to Blame?

New York Medical Journal.

Erratum.—In our list of births, marriages and deaths, published last week, it was announced that a son had been born to Dr. and Mrs. S. Nelson Irwin, whereas we learn now that it was a daughter. The error was not ours.

The Monument.

Here rests the brave—how eloquent still!—
Who followed truth through strife;
And wrought for law and country till
His very death was Life.

Ghostlike, upon the street, goes by
The restless human tide.
O small-browed ones, he cannot die;
But ye, who walk, have died.

—Dallett Fuguet, in May Lippincott.

IN THE GOSSIP'S CORNER.

Under date of Feb. 11 last, Consul General Guenther, at Frankfort, reported to the State Department the substance of a lecture in Berlin, by Dr. Immanuel Friedlander, on the testing of precious stones. According to the doctor the common test for hardness suffices for diamonds. If the stone resists strong attacks, it is certain to be genuine; if it does not, the damage is insignificant, as only an imitation has been destroyed. This test, however, is doubtful with rubies. If a ruby can be affected by a steel file, or by quartz, it is not genuine; but such a test with a topaz is liable to injure a valuable stone. The test for hardness is of no avail with emeralds, as they are not much harder than quartz, and, in addition, possess the quality of cracking easily. The optical test is best for examining rubies and emeralds, a glass magnifying about one hundred times sufficing. Nearly all these stones have many defects which are so characteristic that genuineness is readily established. Imitation rubies are so deceiving that the test is very necessary. Their color is durable, and often much finer than that of real rubies. In true emeralds the defects are inclosures of liquids and curious dentrites. Sapphires show peculiar net-like formations.

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So much for the doctor. It is all very interesting, and, generally speaking, true; but in this line of research, even in the diamond test for hardness, there are exceptions, as in all other mundane things. Any expert in diamonds will tell you of a dozen or more tests which are considered necessary to prove beyond peradventure the genuineness and quality of a gem. Specific gravity is the most severe of these. The specific gravity of the diamond is 3.4, and it is found by weighing the stone in the air, and again in distilled water, and dividing the weight in the air by the difference. For instance: If a stone weighs seventeen carats in the air and twelve in the water, seventeen divided by the difference, five, gives 3.4. The stone, therefore, is genuine. There are, however, infinitesimal differences in the specific gravities of Indian, Brazilian and South African stones, but these are so small as to require special apparatus to determine them.

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The white sapphire often masquerades as a diamond, as do the topaz, beryl, quartz and rock crystal. The so-called Braganza diamond, nine times the size of the Kohinor, which adorns the crown of Portugal, is a white topaz from Brazil. Speaking of stones generally, the expert will tell you that if you can scratch a specimen with a sapphire it is not a diamond; if its specific gravity is less than 3.9 it cannot be a ruby or sapphire; if it does not acquire electricity by heat it is not a topaz; and if, in spite of all, it scratches glass, it must be beryl, quartz or rock crystal. Diamonds sometimes have in them spots of carbon, which are centers of weakness. A little pressure, even with the fingers, will suffice to break such a stone into any number of pieces—all genuine diamonds, but not very valuable. Diamonds "offered at a bargain," especially if very cheap, should be examined for this defect. The microscope will reveal it. Among the "tricks of the trade" the "doublet" and "semi-stone" are the most dangerous. In the former the top of the stone is genuine and the under part is glass, the two being artistically joined with cement. In the latter the top is white sapphire and the under part is glass.

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"Seraphim—Plural of seraph.

"Seraph—One of the celestial beings described in Isaiah vi, 1-6, as surrounding the throne of God."—Century Dictionary.

"Above it (the throne of God) stood the seraphim; each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly."—Isaiah vi, 2.

Note the "he" and the "his" and the plural use of the word, as well as its classification, as plural, by the dictionary. And yet the leading newspaper of the chief city of Ohio allows one of its writers, in referring to a good deed wrought by a female opera singer, to speak of the beneficiaries as "entertaining a seraphim unawares."

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In May of 1889 Oliver Wendell Holmes, the gentle "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," said: "To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old."

The occasion of this characteristic utterance was the seventieth birthday of Julia Ward Howe, who will be eighty-two years old to-morrow. The Autocrat has gone to his last rest, but the truth he uttered still finds its exemplification in the woman whose mind conceived and whose hand recorded the most stirring poem of patriotism that the world has ever heard, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," beginning:

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the faithful lightnings of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on!"

And ending in this potent appeal in freedom's cause:

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on!"

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The case of William Crocker, the New York man who was reported to his friends after he had died as being better, reminds me of a surgical case in a private infirmary in Louisville a couple of years ago, in which the doctor reported to an anxious inquirer over the telephone that the patient was "resting easy." He had died half an hour before.

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The editor of an Eastern paper, which puts all its headlines in frames and does other freakish things, asks: "Why do we feel like jumping off?" and devotes two columns of double-leaded drivel to analyzing, without answering, the question. Frankly, I don't know; but if I found myself stranded amid the contents of that page I'd be liable to do 'most anything.

THE GOSSIP.

Keeping Summer Boarders.

Ladies' Home Journal.

Remember that the boarders are with you in the country for their own pleasure, and not for yours, and try and adapt yourself to them, rather than demand that they should adapt themselves to you. One of the simplest ways of making them comfortable is to give them their meals by themselves and at their own hours. As your family is accustomed to early rising you can have an early breakfast, and have it all over before the guests will wish to rise. So with the dinner and supper. This may seem to entail a great deal of trouble on the farmer's wife; yet a trial will convince her that it is the most satisfactory arrangement all around, the extra trouble not worth considering. As to the food, city people expect certain things on a farm, none of them too difficult to provide—good drinking water, plenty of milk and cream, fresh eggs and butter, vegetables in abundance and fruit in season. If these are all that they should be it will be found that allowances will be made if the meat is not of the quality to be had in city markets, and if there are few fancy dishes of any sort.

A New Hat.

Philadelphia Telegraph.

The strawberry shortcake hat is out, too. It has an upper and lower crust of yellow straw, and the filling between is usually a bright scarf. All it needs is some whipped cream on top to be a walking advertisement of the "real old-fashioned strawberry shortcake."